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The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ He did not think it necessary, because he as Director has to give advice to other departments as regards the purchase. This machine was considered good for nothing and the money got must be considered as god-send.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ May I know what price was paid for the purchase of this machine ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ Rupees 2,000 odd.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—“ Then has the department perpetrated a fraud on the Company ? ” (Laughter.)

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—“ It is a business transaction ; was the sale of the machine advertised ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ It was not.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Did they report to the Government that they were about to sell the machine and obtain their orders ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ It was such a small matter that it was not considered necessary.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Are there no rules to guide officers in these matters ? Is it absolutely at their discretion to do as they like ? ”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ It is stated ‘ The engine was of an old type and was not likely to be useful, etc.’ So, was there no new type of engine when this was purchased in 1919 ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ When they purchased it, it was the only type that was available.”

The Fruit Preserving Institute, Coonoor.

* 274 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state with reference to paragraph 3 of G.O. No. 2002, Development, dated 21st November 1924, the orders passed by the Government as regards the continuance of the Fruit Preserving Institute, Coonoor ?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clause (c) of Question No. 585 printed on page 401 of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council, Volume XXIII—No. 5.

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—“ May I take it that the period for which this factory was established has expired ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ The period has not yet expired.”

Veterinary.

The new Veterinary dispensary in Harpanahalli.

* 275 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) when the new veterinary dispensary will be opened in Harpanahalli, Bellary district ; and

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(e) whether it is a fact that the powers of the co-operative unions and of the honorary assistant registrar were usurped by these officials;

(f) whether complaints of actual interference by the officials of the department with the work of non-officials have been received;

(g) whether it is a fact that on many occasions respectable gentlemen connected with the management of co-operative societies working in the town of Ootacamund complained to the Registrar personally about the unwarranted interference of these officials; and

(h) what steps Government have taken to see that non-official help in the working of these societies is not repelled?

A.—(a) There are 78 societies in the Nilgiris plateau. Of these, 68 are exclusively for the hill tribes.

(b) The outstandings are considerable. The progress of the co-operative movement amongst hill tribes is necessarily slow, but the movement has not failed to confer benefits.

(c) The Government have no reason to think so.

(d) Non-official agencies have not yet come forward to undertake the work of organizing new societies.

(e), (f) & (g) No.

(h) Does not arise.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“Is it a fact that Rao Sahib Belli Gowder was Honorary Assistant Registrar for some time and when he was ill, advantage was taken by the department to entrust two unions in the Nilgiris, one to the village officer and the other to the village schoolmaster, as if public spirited men are not available there?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“Our information is that enough public spirited men are not available.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“Since Mr. Belli Gowder resigned, Mr. Ari Gowder took up the place; but he too had to sever his connexion on account of differences with the departmental staff.”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“No; on account of his having taken up a contract.”

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“May I know by what process has the hon. the Minister discovered that there are not enough public spirited men there?”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“May I know how many co-operative societies are there for the Adi-Dravidas in the Nilgiris district?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“I want notice. I have not got the figures just now.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“Does the hon. the Minister know what is going on in his own department. . . ?”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“The hon. Member has been warned yesterday and I think he should have taken the warning seriously. Surely there are other ways of putting the question.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“Is it a fact that Mr. Davis, M.L.C., was dissatisfied with the attitude of the departmental staff towards non-officials and did he complain about it to Mr. Gray?”